23rd November 1955]

* 2755 *Q.*—Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions for the eviction of the families settled in Government lands in Wynaad taluk, Malabar district; and

(*b*) if so, the number of families affected thereby?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : (*a*) & (*b*) In September 1954 the Government ordered that the encroachments in Wynaad taluk should be dealt with under the existing rules. Accordingly the Tahsildar, Wynaad, booked 261 cases of encroachments which could not be regularized under the rules and issued No. 7 notices under the Land Encroachment Act in fasli 1364 as a result of which, 13 encroachers have since vacated the lands. No eviction of the encroachments by any coercive process had so far been effected. Government have ordered stay of all eviction proceedings pending a final decision on the policy to be followed in respect of these encroachments.

Sri M. Narayana Kurup : Sir, may I know since what time the encroachment began and at what time did the Government notice that there was encroachment and begin to institute eviction proceedings?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : Sir, some encroachments date back to years prior to 1948 and some have taken place after the year 1948. There are about 7,000 cases of unauthorized occupations outside the colony area and 4,300 and odd cases in the colony area.

Sri M. Narayana Kurup : May I know why did the Government not take action at the proper time? By instituting the proceedings now, they have created all these complications?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : Sir, some of the encroachments outside the colonization area have been very subtle and naturally it took some time to find them out.

Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar : Sir, taking stock of the realities, now that there have been about 7,000 encroachments in areas adjoining the colonization area, will Government include all these encroached areas in the colonization scheme and subsidise their development?

The Hon. Sri M. A. Manickavelu : Sir, the Government are examining the question of how best to tackle these encroachments.

Taking over of certain roads in Malabar and South Kanara

* 2756 *Q.*—Sri K. P. Gopalan : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to Question No. 815 given on 15th May 1954, whether it is a fact that the Government have directed the Highways Department to take over the Payyanur-Padiotchal road in North Malabar?